

# ASTRONAUTS WALK ON THE MOON

by Carol Doblewski

The United States won the space race today. The *Eagle* landed on the moon, and the first human being walked on its surface.

*Apollo 11* astronaut Neil Armstrong took those first steps. "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," said Armstrong.

Millions of people around the world were watching the event. It was carried live on television. Some watched both the landing on the moon last night and the walk on the moon early this morning. The landing stirred strong feelings of pride and joy on planet Earth. Millions of people cheered, and some people cried. All were amazed. Armstrong did what no one has ever done before.

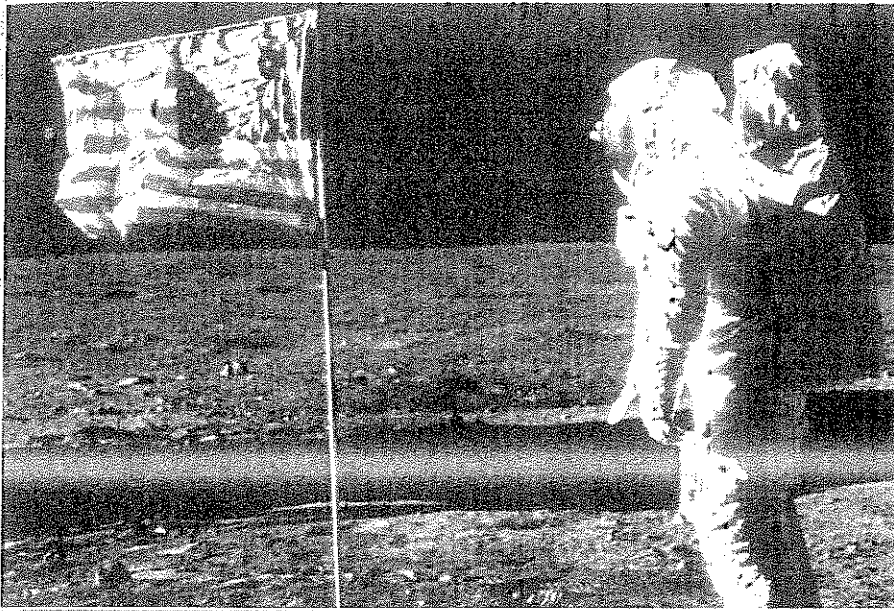
The landing also **fulfilled** a promise made by President John F. Kennedy. During his term in office, Kennedy said that the United States

## Set Your Purpose

What was it like when the first astronauts walked on the moon? Read this newspaper article to find out what one reporter wrote.

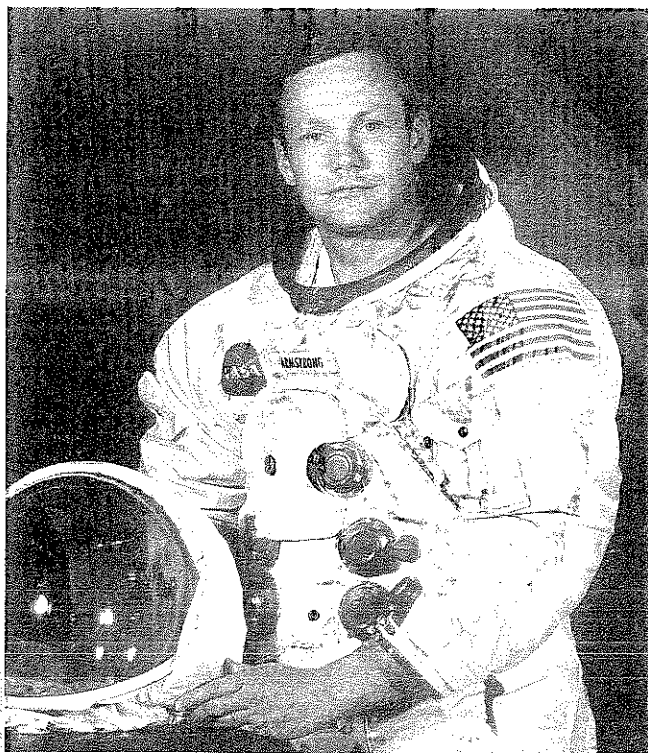


Neil Armstrong steps onto the moon.



would land a man on the moon by the end of the **decade**. Today his dream came true. So did the dreams of millions.

Armstrong and fellow astronaut Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin spent more than two hours walking on the moon. In their space suits, they found walking—and even running—easy. This is due to the moon’s **gravity**, which is one-sixth



Astronaut Neil Armstrong—the first man to walk on the moon

of Earth’s. The astronauts planted a U.S. flag on the moon. They set up three experiments. They collected rock samples from the moon’s surface. They also made satellite contact with the White House. This led to another **historic** moment.

Richard M. Nixon became the first President to chat with someone on the moon.

While Armstrong and Aldrin walked, the third *Apollo 11* astronaut, Michael Collins, stayed on board. He was still in orbit, circling the moon. After their walk, Armstrong and Aldrin used the *Eagle* to get them back to *Apollo 11*.

The flight was launched five days ago, on July 16. It has been attracting worldwide attention ever since.

## Think About It

What did the astronauts do when they landed on the moon? Why was this an important event?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Check Your Understanding

Fill in the letter with the best answer for each question.

- The main idea of this selection is that
  - Neil Armstrong took a small step.
  - walking on the moon is easy.
  - astronauts landed and walked on the moon.
  - the astronauts talked to the President.
- What did the astronauts do when they were on the moon?
  - They set up a space station.
  - They drove a moon buggy.
  - They were fishing.
  - They collected rock samples.
- Why was Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon so important?
  - It was the first time a human had stood on the moon.
  - People everywhere felt pride.
  - There was very little gravity on the moon.
  - It was carried live on television.
- What was the *Eagle*?
  - the spacecraft that was built on the moon
  - machine that took the astronauts to the moon's surface
  - a place on the moon
  - one of the three experiments
- It was easy for the astronauts to walk and run on the moon because
  - there were two astronauts.
  - they spent more than two hours.
  - they were carrying a flag.
  - there is less gravity on the moon.

## Vocabulary

Find each vocabulary word in the selection. The words and sentences around it will help you figure out its meaning.

Fill in the letter with the best definition of the underlined word.

- President Kennedy promised a moon landing by the end of the decade.
  - year
  - ten years
  - dream
  - rocket flight
- President Kennedy fulfilled his promise.
  - ended
  - filled up
  - carried out
  - emptied
- The moon's gravity makes it easy to walk on.
  - rocks and craters
  - being small in size
  - without wind
  - force that pulls down
- The moon landing was a historic moment.
  - important event
  - having happiness
  - state of confusion
  - worthy of being on air
- The *Apollo 11* flight was launched on July 16, 1969.
  - sent up into space
  - given something to eat
  - forgotten
  - lost

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Word Work

**Synonyms** are words that have similar meanings. For example, *little* and *small* are synonyms.

To form the **past tense** of most verbs, add **-ed**. If the verb ends in *e*, drop the *e* and add **-ed**. If the verb ends in *y*, drop the *y* and add **-ied**.

Fill in the letter of the word that means the same or about the same as the underlined word.

Read each sentence. Write the past tense of the word in dark type.

- It is easy to run on the moon.
  - firing
  - simple
  - difficult
  - silly
- You can jump high off the ground.
  - bounce
  - fall
  - leap
  - stumble
- The astronauts gathered some moon rocks.
  - saw
  - threw
  - decorated
  - collected
- They had a chat with the President.
  - talk
  - meeting
  - snack
  - cat
- We felt great happiness when the astronauts returned safely.
  - hope
  - joy
  - fear
  - panic

- land** Yesterday, the *Eagle* \_\_\_\_\_ on the moon.
- watch** The world \_\_\_\_\_ it on their television sets.
- walk** Astronaut Neil Armstrong \_\_\_\_\_ on the moon.
- carry** Then one astronaut \_\_\_\_\_ rock samples.
- wave** We watched as one astronaut \_\_\_\_\_ the American flag.

# Write Now

Look at this chart about the moon landing.

- Plan to write your own news article about an important event that took place in your home, school, or community. First, make a chart like the one shown. Fill it in with the details of your important event.
- Write your news article. Remember to tell *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, and *why*. Use your chart to help you.

<b>Who:</b>	the astronauts
<b>What:</b>	landed and walked
<b>Where:</b>	the moon
<b>When:</b>	July 16, 1969
<b>Why:</b>	to do it!